

REMARKS

Prior to this amendment, Claims 1-7, 9-17, 30-32, 34-39, 53-62, 82 and 84-86 are pending in this application. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected the claims as follows. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 10, 11, 17, 53-55, 62, 84 and 86 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,280,430 (Woods) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,850,609 B1 (Schrage). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Woods in view of Schrage and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,752,227 (Lyberg). Claims 9, 15, 16, 60, 61 and 82 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Woods in view of Schrage and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,513,003 B1 (Angell).

It is gratefully acknowledged that Claims 30-32, 34-39 and 85 have been allowed. It is also gratefully acknowledged and that Claims 12-14 and 56-59 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 7, 9, 13, and 56 have been canceled.

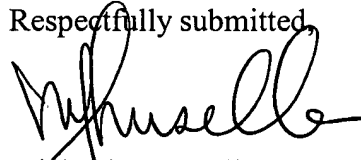
New independent claims 87-91 have been added. New claim 87 includes the allowable subject matter of Claims 1 and 12; new Claim 88 includes the allowable subject matter of Claims 1, 7 and 14; new Claim 89 includes the allowable subject matter of Claims 53, 54 and 57; new Claim 90 includes the allowable subject matter of Claims 53, 55, and 58; and new Claim 91 includes the allowable subject matter of Claims 53 and 59.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection of independent Claims 1 and 53 under 35 U.S.C. §103(b), Claims 1 and 53 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claims 13 and 56, respectively and any intervening claims. Amended Claims 1 and 53 now contain subject matter that is neither taught nor suggested by Woods or Schrage or the combination thereof. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(b) of Claims 1 and 53 be withdrawn.

Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 2-6, 10-12, 14-17, 54-55, 57-62, 82, 84 and 86, these are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective independent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 2-7, 10-12, 14-17, 54-55, 57-62, 82, 84, and 86 is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that pending Claims 1-7, 10-12, 14-17, 53-55, 57-62, 82, 84, 86 and 87-91 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Musella", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael J. Musella
Reg. No. 39,310
Attorney for Applicant

DILWORTH & BARRESE
333 Earle Ovington Blvd.
Uniondale, New York 11553
Tel: (516) 228-8484
Fax: (516) 228-8516